

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/617,323

Examiner

Thuy V. Tran

Applicant(s)

STAM ET AL.

Art Unit

2821

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment submitted on 11/12/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-35.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 10 July 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

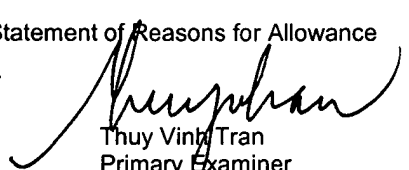
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


Thuy Vinh Tran
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 2821

DETAILED ACTION

This is a response to the Applicants' amendment submitted on 11/12/2004. In virtue of this amendment, claims 1-35 remain active in the instant application.

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-35 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Prior art fails to disclose or fairly suggest:

- An automatic exterior light control comprising a controller configured to generate an exterior light control signal; said controller is further configured to generate a predetermined rate of change of the exterior light control signal over a predetermined time that is a function of at least one variables selected from a group comprising: a current inclination angle of a headlight, an estimated range of an oncoming vehicle, an estimated range of a leading vehicle and an ambient light level, in combination with the remaining claimed limitations as called for in independent claim 1 (claims 2-4 are allowed since they are dependent on claim 1);
- An automatic exterior light control comprising a controller; said controller is configured to generate an exterior light control signal as a function of said controlled vehicle illumination range and said at least one other vehicle, in combination with the remaining claimed limitations as called for in independent claim 5 (claims 6-15 are allowed since they are dependent on claim 5);

- An automatic exterior light control comprising a controller; said controller is configured to generate an exterior light control signal as a function of said controlled vehicle illumination range, in combination with the remaining claimed limitations as called for in independent claim 16 (claims 17-24 are allowed since they are dependent on claim 16);
- An automatic exterior light control comprising a controller; said controller is configured to generate a continuously variable exterior light control signal; said controller is further configured to automatically calibrate said aim of said image array sensor relative to a controlled vehicle as a function of said at least one detected image, in combination with the remaining claimed limitations as called for in independent claim 25 (claims 26-27 are allowed since they are dependent on claim 25);
- An automatic exterior light control comprising a controller configured to generate an exterior light control signal; said controller is further configured to generate a predetermined rate of change of said exterior light control signal over a predetermined time period that is a function of a brightness of at least one detected light source, in combination with the remaining claimed limitations as called for in independent claim 28 (claims 29-31 are allowed since they are dependent on claim 28); and
- An automatic exterior light control comprising a controller configured to generate an exterior light control signal; said controller is further configured to generate a predetermined rate of change of said exterior light control signal over a

Art Unit: 2821

predetermined time period that is not a function of a rate of change in distance to a detected light source, in combination with the remaining claimed limitations as called for in independent claim 32 (claims 33-35 are allowed since they are dependent on claim 32).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thuy V. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-1828. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00 AM -5:00 PM).

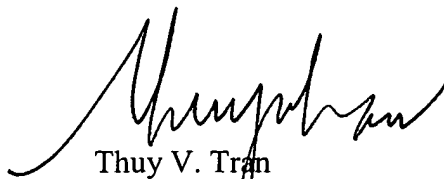
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Don Wong can be reached on (571) 272-1834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Application/Control Number: 10/617,323

Page 5

Art Unit: 2821

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thuy V. Tran', written in a cursive style.

Thuy V. Tran
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2821

01/21/2005